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WELCOME TO MONTANA'S STATE PARKS

This guide is designed to help you choose the park that offers you what you want in an outdoor experience. Scenic beauty, solitude, beach activities, great fishing, or fascinating history—Montana's state parks have a lot to offer. Visit us for a day or stay for a week.

K. L. Cool, Director

K. L. Cool, Director Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

ENJOY OUR GREAT ESCAPES!



Information Call Travel Montana toll-free at 1-800-541-1447 (in Montana dial 444-2654) for free travel planning information. For more detailed park information, call the Montana Parks Division at (406) 444-3750.

Season Some parks are open for day use and camping year round. Check the Fee Schedule Brochure for details.

Camping Campsites in Montana state park campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Most have parking for one vehicle and one RV, a table, and a fire ring or grill where fires are permitted. There are three major types of campsites:

Developed—Campsite with garbage collection, flush toilet, and drinking water nearby.

Basic—Campsite with garbage collection, vault toilet, and drinking water nearby.

Primitive—Campsite with garbage collection and vault toilet.

Fees Day Use fees are charged at most state parks. Camping fees vary depending upon the type of service provided. The Smith River has special floater fees.

Camping fees are charged per "camper unit" for a campsite. A "camper unit" is defined as a motorized vehicle, motorhome, camping bus, pull-type camper, tent or any device designed for sleeping, including a combination of any two that are used by parents and their unmarried children.

A self-register system is in use at most state parks. Recreation use fees are also charged for designated group use facilities, guided tours, and other services. Reservation and fee information is available from the individual parks.

Regulations You are a welcome visitor, but please respect and leave our state parks as you find them. Please collect only photographs and memories. Your pets, where allowed, must be kept on a leash. Glass containers are not allowed on beaches. To keep your family's holiday refreshing and relaxing, loud or disorderly conduct is not permitted. These rules help us to protect the environment and to provide you with a rewarding state park experience. To report serious violations, dial 1-800-TIP-MONT. Outside of Montana dial 1-800-327-3212.

Fishing Before baiting your hook, pick up a Montana fishing license. It allows you to fish during open seasons both inside and outside state parks. Fees and regulations are outlined in current Montana Fishing Regulations, available by calling the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 444-2535 or by visiting any Department office or licensing agent. Hearing impaired recreationists may call our telephone device for the deaf (TDD) at 444-1200.



Beavertail Hill

542-5500

















This area includes 1/2 mile of Clark Fork River frontage. Visitors enjoy fishing and camping in the shade provided by a stand of river cottonwoods. (26 miles southeast of Missoula on I-90 to Beavertail Hill exit, then .25 mile south on county road.)

Council Grove

Day Use Only

542-5500











This park marks the site of the 1855 council between Isaac Stevens and the Flathead, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Indians. Here the Indians signed the Hellgate Treaty and relinquished their ancestral hunting grounds in exchange for a reservation in the Mission Valley. (In Missoula on I-90 at Reserve St. Exit, 2 miles south on Reserve St., then 10 miles west on Mullan Rd.)

FLATHEAD LAKE

FEATURES

Flathead Lake is located between Kalispell and Polson on Highways 93 and 35. It is renowned for boating, sailing, fishing, camping and swimming. The park's six units provide public access to the shores of Flathead Lake, and provide boat access to Wild Horse Island. The lake itself, the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi, was dredged out by receding glaciers during the Wisconsin period of glaciation which ended 10,000 years ago. It is 38 miles long and from 5 to 15 miles wide. Éncompassing 188 square miles at an elevation of 2,892 feet, the lake's maximum depth is 339 feet and it has 185 miles of shoreline.

EAST SHORE

Finley Point

Summer 887-2715

























Finley Point is located in a secluded, mature confier forest near the south end of Flathead Lake. Lake trout and yellow perch

fishing is often excellent. 16 slips for boats up to 25 feet long are rented with each 40 foot campsite. (11 miles north of Polson on Montana 35, then 4 miles west on county road.)

Wayfarers

Summer 837-4196



Located near the quaint resort town of Bigfork on the northeast shore of Flathead Lake. A mature mixed conifer forest makes this site very pleasant for camping and picnicking. Visitors can also enjoy its beach, wildflowers, walking trails, and the best sunsets in the valley. (.5 mile south of Bigfork on Montana 35.)

Yellow Bay

Summer 982-3291





















Located in the heart of Montana's famous sweet cherry orchards, this park includes Yellow Bay Creek and a wide, gravelly beach. Visitors enjoy swimming, boating, lake trout fishing, and bird watching. (15 miles north of Polson on Montana 35.)



WEST SHORE

Big Arm

Summer 849-5255



On Flathead Lake's Big Arm Bay, this park is a popular jump-off point for boat tours of Wild Horse Island. Big Arm's long pebble beach is popular with sunbathers, and Canada geese watchers. 12 miles north of Polson on U.S. 93.)

Elmo

Summer 849-5744

























Elmo has a large, open campground dotted with juniper trees. Its long gravel shoreline and beach are particular favorites of sunbathers and windsurfers, and a good place to watch ducks and geese. (2 miles north of Elmo on U.S. 93.)

West Shore

Summer 844-3901



























West Shore is located in a mature forest overlooking Flathead Lake. The park's glacially-carved rock outcrops give spectacular views of Flathead Lake and the Mission and Swan Mountain Ranges. The shoreline is rocky, and fishing and boating are popular. The campground is located above the lake in a fir, pine, and larch forest. (20 miles south of Kalispell on U.S. 93)

Wild Horse Island

Day Use Only 752-5501











One of the largest islands in the inland U.S. this wilderness park is noted for its endangered palouse prairie plant species and incredible wildlife. Herds of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, whitetail deer, songbirds, waterfowl, bald eagles, and wild horses make this 2,163 acre wilderness island their home. Boat access via Big Arm is carefully regulated. (Access from Big Arm via boat to Little Sheeko Bay on northwest side of island.)



Fort Owen

Day Use Only

542-5500





This tiny park is a significant part of Montana's frontier history. Built of adobe and logs, Fort Owen is the site of the first permanent white settlement in Montana. (25 miles south of Missoula on U.S. 93 to Stevensville Junction, then .5 mile east on Secondary 269.)

Frenchtown Pond

Day Use Only

542-5500

















This five-acre, spring-fed lake provides a swimming platform and angling for a variety of fish. (15 miles west of Missoula on I-90 at Frenchtown exit, then 1 mile west on Frontage Rd.)

Lake Mary Ronan

Summer 849-5082 Winter 752-5501





















Situated on Lake Mary Ronan, this park is shaded by a forest of douglas-fir and western larch. Attractions include fishing for trout, bass, and kokanee salmon, bird watching, huckleberry picking, swimming, and mushroom hunting. (U.S. 93 at Dayton, then 7 miles northwest.)

Lone Pine

Day Use Only

755-2706































This park offers a self-guided nature trail, hiking trails, horse trails, and an archery range. Scenic overlooks provide views of Flathead Lake to the Big Mountain Ski Area. (4 miles southwest of Kalispell on Foyes Lake Rd., then 1 miles north on Lone Pine Estates Rd.)



Placid Lake

542-5500

























Located on a branch of the Clearwater River, Placid Lake is known for its good trout and kokanee salmon fishing. Interpretive panels provide an account of early-day logging practices. (3 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83, then 3 miles west on county road.)

Salmon Lake

542-5501























Salmon Lake is one of the beautiful links in a chain of lakes fed by the Clearwater River. Fishing, boating, and a variety of other water sports are popular activities in this woodland setting of western larch, ponderosa pine, and douglas-fir. (5 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83.)

Thompson Chain of Lakes(Logan)

Summer 293-7190 Winter 752-5501

























Surrounded by a forest of douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, this park is on the north shore of Middle Thompson Lake. Visitors enjoy swimming, boating, camping, waterskiing, and fishing for rainbow trout, largemouth bass, kokanee salmon, and yellow perch. (45 miles west of Kalispell on U.S. 2.)

Thompson Falls

Summer 827-3732 Winter 752-5501





















A mature, mixed pine forest makes this a cool and private park. Attractions include bird watching, fishing for bass, trout, and ling, nature walks, and boating on Noxon Rapids Reservoir. (1 mile northwest of Thompson Falls on Montana 200, milepost 50.)

Whitefish Lake



Summer 862-3991 Winter 752-5501

































A mature woodland contributes to this pleasant, secluded campground and beach. Boating, swimming, and fishing opportunities are abundant. 5 mile west of Whitefish on U.S. 93, then 1 mile north.)



Anaconda Smelter Stack

542-5500



At 585 feet, 1.5, inches this stack is one of the tallest standing brick structures in the world. It can only be viewed at a distance. (In Anaconda on Montana 1.)

Bannack

834-3413





















The ghost town of Bannack, the site of Montana's first major gold discovery in 1862, became Montana's first territorial capital in 1864. The main street is lined with historic log and frame structures that recall Montana's formative years. (5 miles south of Dillon on I-15, then 21 miles west on Secondary 278, then 4 miles south on county road.)

Beaverhead Rock

Day Use Only

994-4042



Sacajawea recognized this huge landmark, resembling the head of a swimming beaver, while traveling with Lewis and Clark in 1805. (14 miles south of Twin Bridges on Montana 41.)

Canyon Ferry

444-4475



The largest and most popular attraction in Montana's state park system, Canyon Ferry State Park is comprised of 22 individual recreation areas that offer a wealth of camping and water related recreational opportunities. Three full-service marinas provide docking space for over 300 boats. The area is also rich in points of scenic, historic, and geologic interest. (10 miles east of Helena on U.S. 12/287, then 8 miles north on Secondary 284.)

State Capitol Grounds

Day Use Only



While this area does not resemble a state park, the formal grounds and flower gardens are visited by thousands of people a year. Capitol grounds encompasses 50 acres of grounds around the capitol building and state office buildings.

Clark's Lookout

Day Use Only

834-3413



This outcrop above the Beaverhead River provided the Lewis and Clark Expedition a view of the route ahead. (In Dillon on I-90 at Montana 41 exit, .5 mile east, then .5 mile north on county road.)

Hauser Lake (Black Sandy)

444-4720



















One of the few public parks on the shores of Hauser Reservoir, Black Sandy is an extremely popular weekend boating, fishing, and water skiing take-off point. (7 miles north of Helena on 1-15, then 4 miles east on Secondary 453, then 3 miles north on county road.)

Holter Lake

454-3441



















This is one of the few public parks on the shores of Holter Reservoir. Campers and picnickers enjoy a variety of water sports, as well as good fishing for rainbow trout, walleye, and yellow perch. (2 miles north of Wolf Creek on Missouri River Rd., then 3 miles south on county road.)

Lewis and Clark Caverns

287-3541

































Montana's first and best-known state park features one of the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest. Naturally air conditioned, these spectacular caves, lined with stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and helictites, are electrically lighted and safe to visit. (19 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2.)

Lost Creek

542-5500















Lost Creek Falls cascades over a 50-foot drop to provide one of the most scenic and popular spots in the park. Wildlife, especially mountain goat and bighorn sheep, are frequently seen on the cliffs above. (1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana 1, then 2 miles north on Secondary 273, then 6 miles west.)

Painted Rocks

542-5500



















This reservoir offers boating, camping, and fishing in the scenic Bitterroot Mountains. (20 miles south of Hamilton on U.S. 93, then 23 miles southwest on Secondary 473.)

Parker Homestead Day Use Only

994-4042



This sod-roofed log cabin is representative of the frontier homes of pioneers who settled Montana. (8 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2.)

Spring Meadow Lake Day Use Only 444-4720























This 30-acre, spring-fed, man-made lake on the western edge of Helena is noted for its clarity and depth. Open to nonmotorized boats only, the lake is popular for swimming, sunbathing, scuba diving, and fishing for trout, bass, and sunfish. (In Helena, take Euclid to Joslyn to Country Club Avenue.)





Cooney

Summer 445-2326 Winter 252-4654





















This irrigation reservoir is the most popular recreation area serving south-central Montana. Attractions include good walleye and rainbow fishing. Boating and camping opportunities are abundant. (22 miles southwest of Laurel on U.S. 212, then 5 miles west of Boyd on county road.)

Deadman's Basin

252-4654













This irrigation reservoir on the open prairie north of the Musselshell River provides miles of shoreline for a variety of water sports. (20 miles east of Harlowton on U.S. 12, then 1 mile north on county road.)

Greycliff Prairie Dog Town Day Use Only







This blacktailed prairie dog community is protected and preserved through the efforts of the Nature Conservancy, the Montana Departments of Transportation and Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Interpretive displays help to tell the story of these small entertaining prairie dogs. (9 miles east of Big Timber on I-90 at Greycliff exit.)















Prior to the introduction of the horse to the Indians of the northern Great Plains in the mid-1700s, the Blackfeet, Flathead and Shoshone tribes stampeded herds of bison over this precipice in order to secure the necessities of food, clothing, shelter, and tools. (23 miles west of Bozeman on I-90 at Logan exit, then 7 miles south on Buffalo Jump Road.)



Missouri Headwaters

994-4042





























Established where the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin rivers converge to form the Missouri River, Missouri Headwaters was a geographical focal point important to early Native Americans, trappers, traders, and settlers. (3 miles east of Three forks on I-90 at Three Forks exit, then east on Secondary 205, then 3 miles north on Secondary 286.)



Day Use Only

252-4654



Until its collapse in 1988, a natural rock bridge spanned the Boulder River here. (27 miles south of big Timber on Secondary 298.)



Ackley Lake

454-3441





















Ackley Lake, named after an early settler and frontiersman, offers diverse water sports opportunities. The lake provides good angling for 10-to-15-inch rainbow trout. (17 miles west of Lewistown on U.S. 87 to Hobson, then 5 miles south on Secondary 400, then 2 miles southwest on county road.)

Bears Paw Battlefield Day Use Only 228-9347











This is the site of the surrender of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians on October 5, 1877. (16 miles south of Chinook on Secondary 240.)

Giant Springs

Day Use Only

454-3441























Discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, this is one of the largest freshwater springs in the nation. Visitors can picnic on the banks of the Missouri River and visit the nearby Rainbow Falls overlook, visitor center, and fish hatchery. (3 miles east of U.S. 87 on River Drive, Great Falls.)



Smith River

454-3441















A 61-mile float trip down the remote Smith River Canyon provides incredible scenery and fantastic trout fishing. There are 22 boat camps along the river from the put-in point at Camp Baker to the take-out point at Eden Bridge. (16 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs on Secondary 360, then 7 miles north on county road.)



Ulm Piskun

Day Use Only

454-3441









Thought to be the largest in the U.S., this prehistoric bison kill site has a mile-long buffalo jump. (10 miles south of Great Falls on I-15 at Ulm Exit, then 4 miles northwest on county road.)



Hell Creek

232-4365

































On the Hell Creek Arm of Fort Peck Lake, this park provides facilities for most water sports as well as excellent walleye fishing. This is a launch point to the wild and beautiful Missouri Breaks. (25 miles north of Jordan on county road.)









Along the hiking trail that follows an abandoned railroad grade you can enjoy a day of fishing Belt Creek or visiting nearby mining ghost towns. (5 miles south of Belt on U.S. 89, then 2 miles west on county road.)





Chief Day Use Only Plenty Coups

Summer 252-1289 Winter 252-4654















This is the home of Plenty Coups, last chief of the Crow Indians. Plenty Coups' log home and store remain as evidence of the chief's efforts to lead his people in adopting the lifestyle of the white man. (1 miles west of Pryor on county road.)



Lake Elmo Day Use Only

Summer 256-6205 Winter 252-4654



















A short drive from Billings, this 64-acre reservoir is a very popular swimming, boardsailing, boating (non-motorized), and fishing area. (In Billings, U.S. 87 north to Pemberton Lane, then .5 mile west.)

Makoshika

365-8596

















To the Sioux Indians, Ma-ko-shi-ka meant "bad earth" or "bad land." In addition to the pine and juniper studded badlands formations, the park also houses the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. Included within the park are archery and shooting ranges as well as scenic roads and nature trails. (On Snyder Avenue in Glendive.)

Medicine Rocks

232-4365













Indian hunting parties came here to conjure up magical spirits that reside among the unique sandstone rock formations. (25) miles south of Baker on Montana 7.)

Pictograph Cave

Day Use Only

252-4654



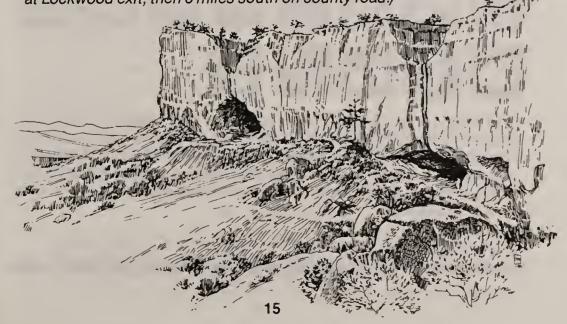








The Pictograph Cave complex was home to generations of prehistoric hunters. A paved 1/4-mile trail allows visitors to view ancient rock paintings, known as pictographs. (In Billings on 1-90 at Lockwood exit, then 6 miles south on county road.)





Floaters find this cottonwood covered Yellowstone River island an excellent spot to view wildlife and hunt for Montana moss agates. (1 mile north of Miles City on Montana 22, then 2 miles east on Kinsey Road, then 2 miles south on county road.)

Rosebud Battlefield Day Use Only 232-4365







This is the site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General Crook's infantry and cavalry. (25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road.)

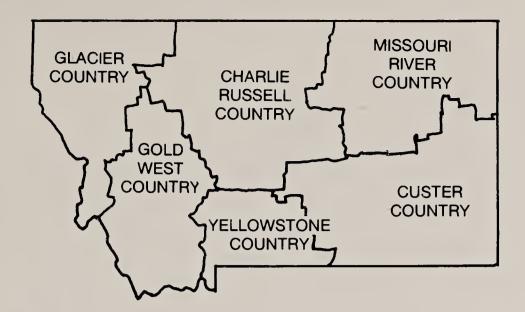


Tongue River Reservoir

232-4365



The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile-long reservoir set in the scenic red shale, juniper canyons and open prairies of southeastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here. Fishing is excellent for bass, crappie, walleye and northern pike. (6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 miles east on country road.)





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Piroque Island

Day Use Only

232-4365



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Tongue River Reservoir







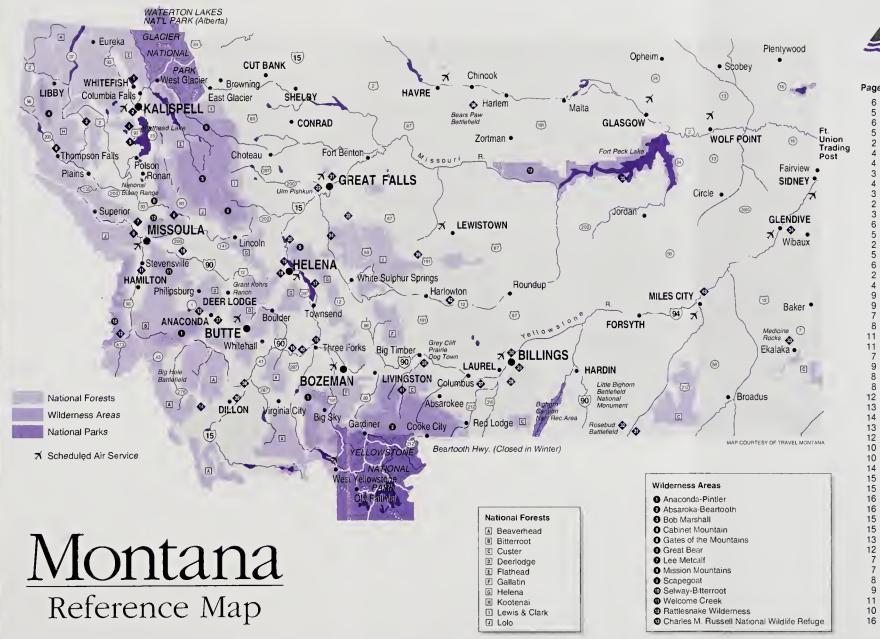








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For detailed information. write or call Montana Parks Division 1420 East 6th Ave. Helena, MT 59620 406-444-3750

State Parks

Whitefish Lake

Lone Pine

Thompson Lakes (Logan)

A Lake Mary Ronan

Flathead Lake West Shore

Elmo Big Arm

Wild Horse Island Yellow Bay Finley Point

Wayfarers

◆ Thompson Falls

Frenchtown Pond ◆ Council Grove

Placid Lake

Salmon Lake Beavertail Hill

Fort Owen

Painted Rocks

Dost Creek

Bannack

Lewis & Clark Caverns

Missouri Headwaters

Madison Buffalo Jump

Canyon Ferry

Spring Meadow Lake

Hauser Lake (Black Sandy)

Holter Lake

Giant Springs

W Ulm Pishkun

Sluice Boxes

Smith River

Ackley Lake

Greycliff Prairie Dog Town

Cooney

Chief Plenty Coups

@ Pictograph Cave

Lake Elmo

Tongue River Reservoir

Rosebud Battlefield

Medicine Rocks

Makoshika

Hell Creek

Bears Paw Battlefield

Anaconda Smelter Stack

Beaverhead Rock

Clark's Lookout

Parker Homestead

Natural Bridge

Deadman's Basin

Pirogue Island

16



Natural Park



Cultural Park

Swimming



Recreation Park

Fishing



Visitor Center/ Information

Boating



Marina

Campsite Reservations

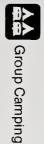
Boat Launch



Campground

Hand Launch

Access



ff.

Boat Rentals

Tenting Area

Range

Shooting



Showers

Trails



Fire Rings/

Campfire Wood

Interpretive

Trails Interpretive

Programs



Hook-up Electrical

Public Phone



Dumping

Concessions

Shelters

Groceries

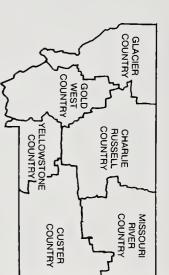
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Picnic Area







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